

INTERNATIONAL LAKE SUPERIOR BOARD OF CONTROL

<http://www.lre.usace.army.mil/Storage/HH/IJC/Superior/index.shtml>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LAKE SUPERIOR OUTFLOW CONDITIONS

The International Lake Superior Board of Control, under the authority granted to it by the International Joint Commission, has set the Lake Superior outflow to 2,280 cubic meters per second (m^3/s) (80.5 thousand cubic feet per second (tcfs)) for the month of June. This is 200 cms (7.1 tcfs) over the outflow recommended by the regulation plan for the month of June of 2,080 cms (73.5 tcfs). The IJC has approved this deviation in view of the power emergency in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan resulting from the Silver Lake Dam failure near Marquette that caused the shutdown of the Presque Isle Generating Plant, the largest source of electric power in the U.P. It also complies with the Canadian-U.S. Boundary Waters Treaty and the 1914 Orders of Approval, which call for equal sharing of water by the hydropower interests. This is an increase from the May outflow of 1,910 m^3/s (67.5 tcfs).

The June outflow will be released by discharging about 2,158 m^3/s (76.2 tcfs) through the three hydropower plants and passing most of the remaining flow through the control structure at the head of the St. Marys rapids. The gate setting of the control structure will be maintained at the existing setting equivalent to one-half gate open (four gates open 25 cm, or about 10 inches each). There will be no change to the setting of Gate #1 that supplies the Fishery Remedial Works.

The water supplies for both Lakes Superior and Michigan-Huron are near their May averages. This past month the level of Lake Superior rose by about the usual amount for May. Currently, the Lake Superior level is about 19 cm (7 inches) below its long-term average beginning of June level and about 4 cm (2 inches) below the level recorded last year. The level of Lake Superior is now 2 cm (1 inch) above its chart datum level. The level of Lakes Michigan-Huron rose by 10 cm (4 inches) this past month, 2 cm (1 inch) more than its usual amount for May. The level of Lakes Michigan-Huron is about 59 cm (23 inches) below its long-term average beginning of June level, and is now about 28 cm (11 inches) below the level recorded last year. Lakes Michigan-Huron's level is now 4 cm (2 inches) below its chart datum level, but is 21 cm (8 inches) above its record low beginning-of-June level. The Board continues to monitor conditions both on Lake Superior and downstream and will advise the International Joint Commission accordingly on those conditions.

Colonel Mark A. Roncoli, Commander, Chicago District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, is the Alternate United States Board Member. Mr. Carr McLeod is the Board Member for Canada.

For further information please contact Carl Woodruff as indicated above.

The Internet homepage at <http://www.lre.usace.army.mil/> provides access to additional information.